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C O N F I D E N T I A L WINDHOEK 000320

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/07/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UN](#) [UNGA](#) [KV](#) [WA](#)
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: UNDECIDED ON KOSOVO ICJ RESOLUTION, BUT
STILL AGAINST KOSOVO INDEPENDENCE

REF: STATE 105796

Classified By: Classified By: Charge d'affaires, a.i.
Matt Harrington; reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) Charge d'affaires met with the Namibian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Permanent Secretary Veicco Nghiwete to deliver reftel demarche on October 6. CDA was accompanied by poleconoff, while Nghiwete was joined by Deputy Permanent Secretary Hinyangerwa Asheeke and Deputy Director for Bilateral Affairs Jerobeam Shaanika. The Permanent Secretary (PS) responded that Namibia's position toward Kosovo) that it does not recognize the country's independence - remains unchanged. Nghiwete remarked that Kosovo's independence could have adverse effects on Namibia and other countries on the African continent. The CDA underscored why we consider Kosovo a unique case that does not constitute a precedent, noting the genocide followed by the long period of UN administration. Nghiwete drew parallels between Kosovo and the 1999 secessionist movement in Namibia's Caprivi region, which had been firmly suppressed by the Namibian government. Asheeke insisted that Kosovo serves as a precedent, pointing to the recent conflict between Russia and Georgia over South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions as an inevitable consequence of Pristina's declaration of independence.

12. (C) Nghiwete explained that the Namibian government (GRN) had not yet reached a decision on Serbia's UNGA resolution to refer a question on the legality of Kosovo's declaration of independence to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). When the CDA pointed out that an ICJ ruling in favor of Kosovo might actually serve as a potentially difficult precedent for Namibia (given its Caprivi issue), Nghiwete shrugged off the significance of such a ruling, noting that the United Nations had yet to recognize Kosovo.
HARRINGTON